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ELEKTRA
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ELEKTRA
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ELEKTRA, NO! IT'S ME, KONRAD!
MIKE DEODATO JR.
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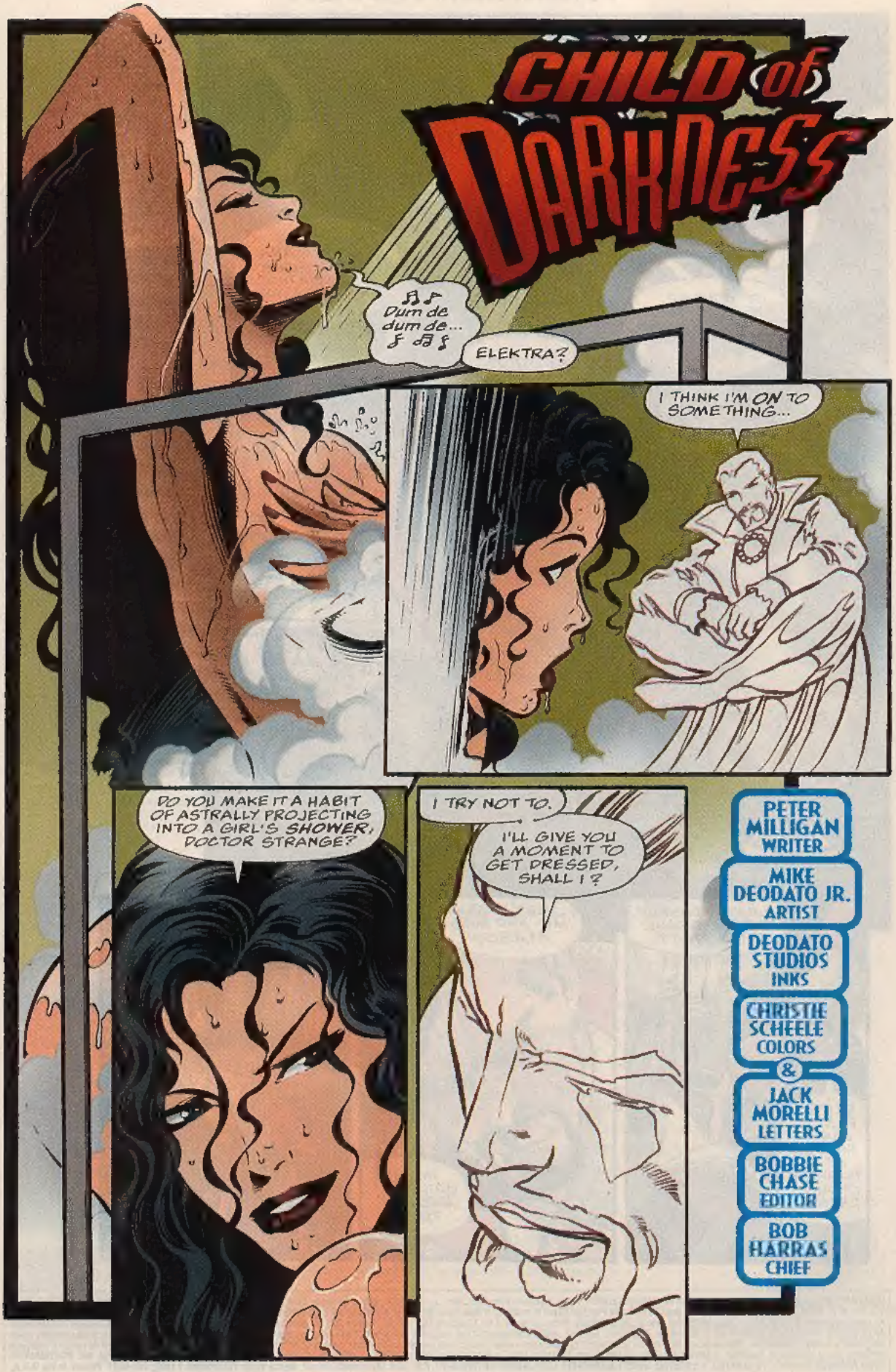

CHILD of DARKNESS
Dum de dum de...
ELEKTRA?
I THINK I'M ON TO SOMETHING...
DO YOU MAKE IT A HABIT OF ASTRALLY PROJECTING INTO A GIRL'S SHOWER, DOCTOR STRANGE?
I TRY NOT TO.
I'LL GIVE YOU A MOMENT TO GET DRESSED, SHALL I?
PETER MILLIGAN WRITER
MIKE DEODATO JR. ARTIST
DEODATO STUDIOS INKS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
&
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF

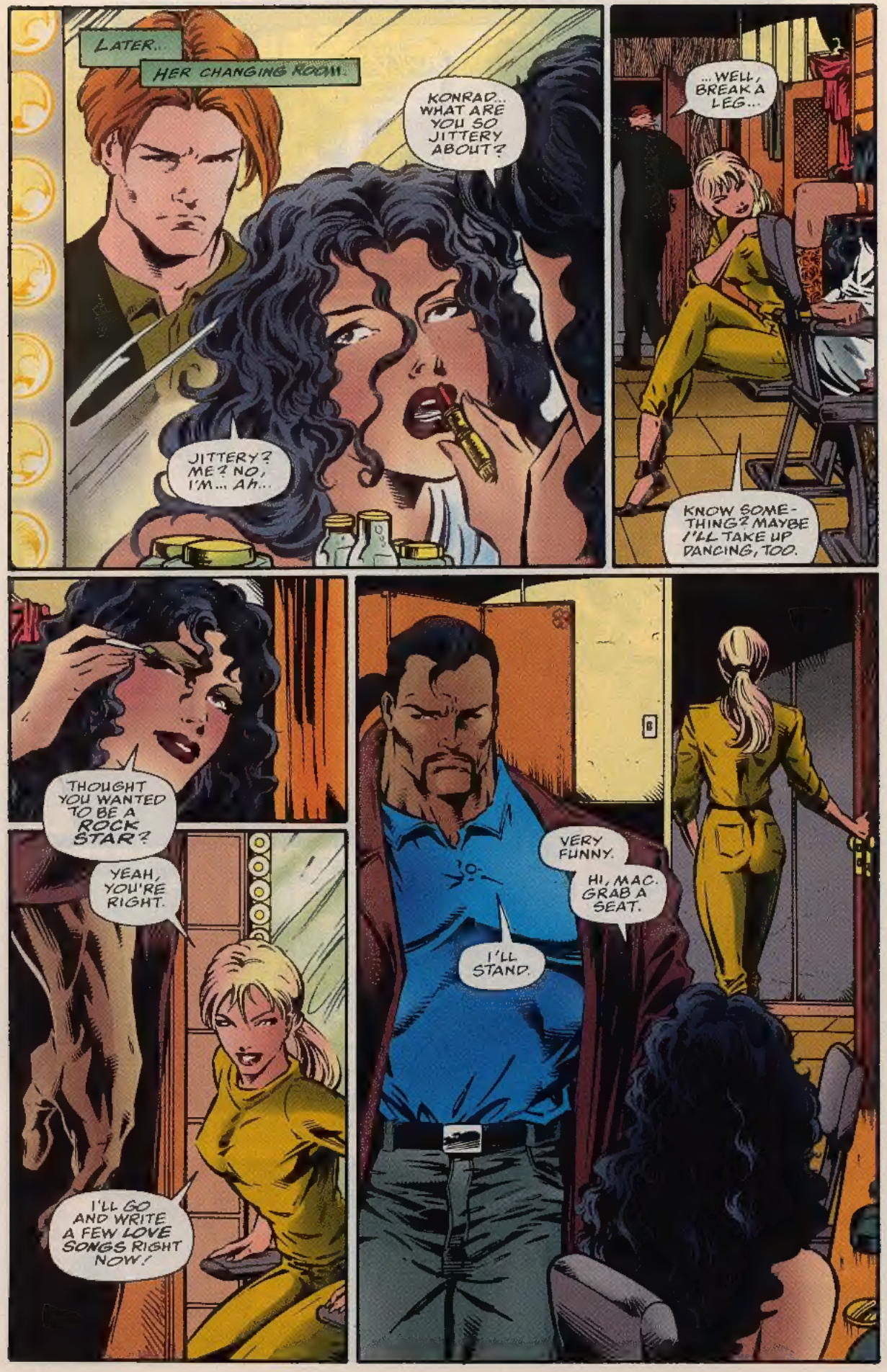
...SIXTEEN... SEVENTEEN... EIGHTEEN... NINETEEN...
...TWENTY.
AS I WAS SAYING, I THINK I KNOW WHAT OUR ADVERSARY IS UP TO. AND WHERE YOU FIT IN.
MEET ME AT MY PLACE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES. ALL THE PORTENTS SUGGEST THAT THE HOUR OF TRUTH IS FAST APPROACHING.
I FEEL THAT, TOO. BUT I HAVE A QUESTION.
HOW COME ASTRAL PROJECTIONS DON'T BLUSH...?
Oh, THEY DO.
IT'S JUST MINE THAT DON'T.

KONRAD WEISS'S DANCE THEATER...
I'M... SORRY, SHELLY. YOU CAN HAVE A MONTH'S WAGES.
UP YOURS, KONRAD.
GOOD. NOW I WILL PLAY ELEKTRA'S MOTHER.
REMEMBER: YOU WILL HAVE A HEALTHY FOOT, IF YOU DO AS I SAY.
BUT WHY DO YOU WANT HER TO KILL YOU?
THIS BODY OF A YOUNG AMERICAN WOMAN HOUSES AN ANCIENT, ALIEN LIFEFORCE.
AMONG WHOSE MANY NAMES IS THE ARCHITECT.
SO THAT A CHILD MIGHT LIVE.
EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE. THE BLADE IS NOW GENUINE AND SHARP.
WHEN ELEKTRA KILLS CLYTEMNESTRA, PLAYED BY YOU...
...YOU'LL DIE FOR REAL.

A CHILD!
SIXTEEN YEARS OLD AND EXPECTING A CHILD!
SHE WON'T EVEN TELL ME WHO THE FATHER IS! CLAIMS SHE DON'T KNOW!
WHAT KINDA WORLD IS IT WHEN A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD DON'T KNOW A THING LIKE THAT?!
MR. MASON, MAY WE SEE YOUR DAUGHTER?
DUNNO ABOUT THAT. HOW COME YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN OUR MARY?
THE PERSON WE'RE AFTER... WE SUSPECT HE'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S CONDITION.
AW, GO SEE HER, THEN. BUT IF YOU FIND OUT WHO THE CREEP IS, BETTER NOT TELL ME.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN ABORTION. DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT TO KILL AN UNBORN CHILD.
BUT I'D GLADLY STRANGLE THE FATHER!

I GUESS I DRUNK TOO MUCH. I MET THIS WEIRD OLDER GUY. I--I KINDA BLACKED OUT. ENDED UP BACK HERE...
WHAT WAS WEIRD ABOUT THIS OLDER GUY?
APART FROM THE FACT THAT HE GOT ME PREGNANT WITHOUT ME KNOWING ABOUT IT?
HE SMELT. LIKE HE WAS ON FIRE OR SOMETHING.
I THINK WE'RE GETTING WARM.
I'M GOING TO NEED A FEW THINGS FROM YOU, MARY.
CERTAIN SAMPLES.
UH, LIKE, THAT SOUNDS PRETTY WEIRD TOO.
RELAX.
HE'S A DOCTOR.

BACK AT DR. STRANGE'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM...
THE BABY IN THE POOR WRETCH'S WOMB IS THE ARCHITECT'S NEW VESSEL.
HIS LIFEFORCE WILL MIGRATE THERE. HOW SUCCESSFULLY DEPENDS UPON HOW SKILLFULLY YOU KILL HIM.
SO WHY THE SAMPLES FROM MARY?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN. WORK TO DO.
VERY SOON, HE WILL GET YOU TO KILL HIM.
AND NOW THAT I HAVE THIS, YOU CAN GO RIGHT AHEAD.
YOU CAN KILL THAT ANCIENT MONSTER JUST AS BRUTALLY AS YOU PLEASE.
DOCTOR STRANGE...
...YOU HAVE JUST MADE THIS GIRL'S DAY.


LATER..
HER CHANGING ROOM.
KONRAD.. WHAT ARE YOU SO JITTERY ABOUT?
JITTERY? ME? NO, I'M... AH...
...WELL, BREAK A LEG...
KNOW SOMETHING? MAYBE I'LL TAKE UP DANCING, TOO.
THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BE A ROCK STAR?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'LL GO AND WRITE A FEW LOVE SONGS RIGHT NOW!
VERY FUNNY.
HI, MAC. GRAB A SEAT.
I'LL STAND.

HIS NAME IS MCKINLEY STEWART...
ELEKTRA, ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...
WHICH WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAC?
DON'T BE EVIL. YOU KNOW WHAT WHICH. I MEAN WHICH...
OKAY, I'LL TRY NOT TO BE EVIL, IF YOU TRY NOT TO SOUND SO NERVOUS.
I NEEDED SOMETHING, MAC. AND YOU HAD WHAT I NEEDED.
I PROBABLY USED YOU.
IT WAS PROBABLY WRONG OF ME.
OH, NO. BEING USED LIKE THAT IS NO PROBLEM.
GOOD.
BUT LET'S KEEP IT UNCOMPLI-CATED, HUH?
YOU ARE LOOKING AT MISTER UNCOMPLICATED.

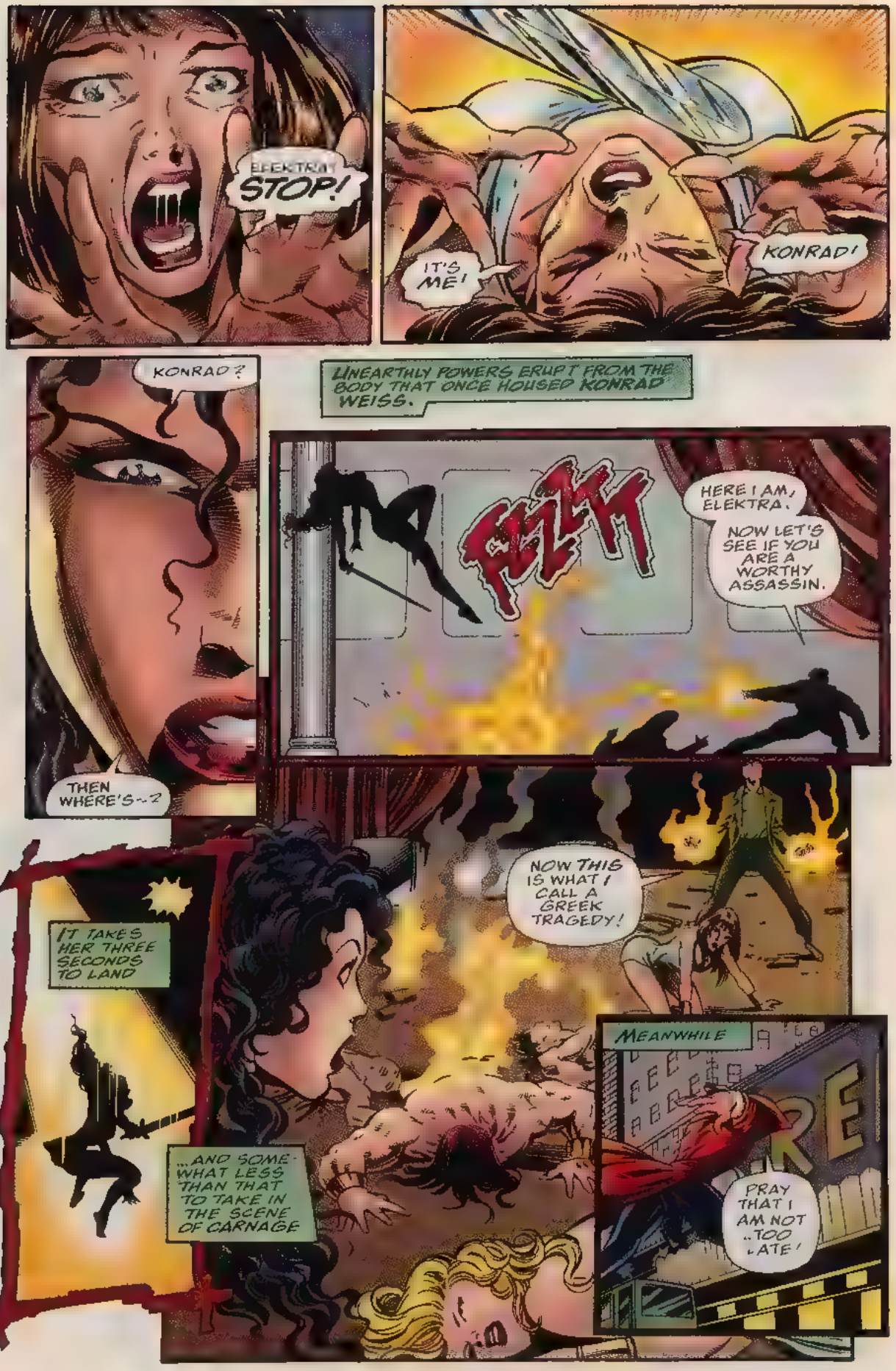
THE PERFORMANCE BEGINS
THE STAGE SWORD IN ELEKTRA'S HAND FEELS DIFFERENT
SHE ESTIMATES IT'S AT LEAST EIGHT OUNCES HEAVIER THAN THE ONE SHE USUALLY USES
A NEW PERFORMER DANCES TOWARDS HER
ONE THAT ELEKTRA MUST KILL.
MEANWHILE
STRANGE HAS FINISHED HIS WORK
. AN IMPROBABLE CREATION STUFFED INSIDE A HERMETICALLY SEALED ORB.
TIME FOR A QUICK CUP OF LAPSANG SOUCHONG BEFORE I HELP ELEKTRA RID THE WORLD OF A TIMELESS EVIL
OR PERHAPS NOT.
THE AURAL NIMBUS I PLACED AROUND HER SUGGESTS THINGS ARE HAPPENING A LITTLE TOO QUICKLY..

MAGICALLY LINKED, HE SEES ELEKTRA ABOUT TO STRIKE DOWN THE DANCER.
TO KILL CLYTEMNESTRA SLAYER OF AGAMEMNON
THE ARCHITECT! IT'S HIM! I MEAN HER!
THE ORB LEVITATES TOWARDS HIM
HE SUMMONS THE POWERS THAT ALLOW HIS PHYSICAL FORM TO DEMATERIALIZE
AND IS ALMOST RIPPED APART!
Ahhh! ANCIENT POWER.
STOPPING ME
FIRST BLOOD TO YOU, ARCHITECT.
BUT JUST BECAUSE I AM THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS
DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T HAVE TWO GOOD LEGS!

Oh, look at those eyes
Look at that hate.
My instinct at the last will be to fight.
I'M ALL YOURS DARLING
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, KONRAD?
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR LOUSY LAME FOOT?
EEEKK!
THE SWORD IS REAL!
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HER!
But she will k me.
And my death will be sublime

IT'S COMING
IT'S COMING
FLUSH MARY
HERE IT COMES!
" IT'S ALMOST OVER
ELEKTRA! THAT DANCER IS SOME KIND OF DEMON!
SHE WANTS YOU TO—
--KILL HER!
KONRAD!
NO!
YOU'VE PUT HER OFF HER STROKE!
MY WOUND IS UNACCEPT-ABLE!
THIS IS HOW I SHOULD BE STRUCK DOWN!
MY GOD!
AIIEEE!!

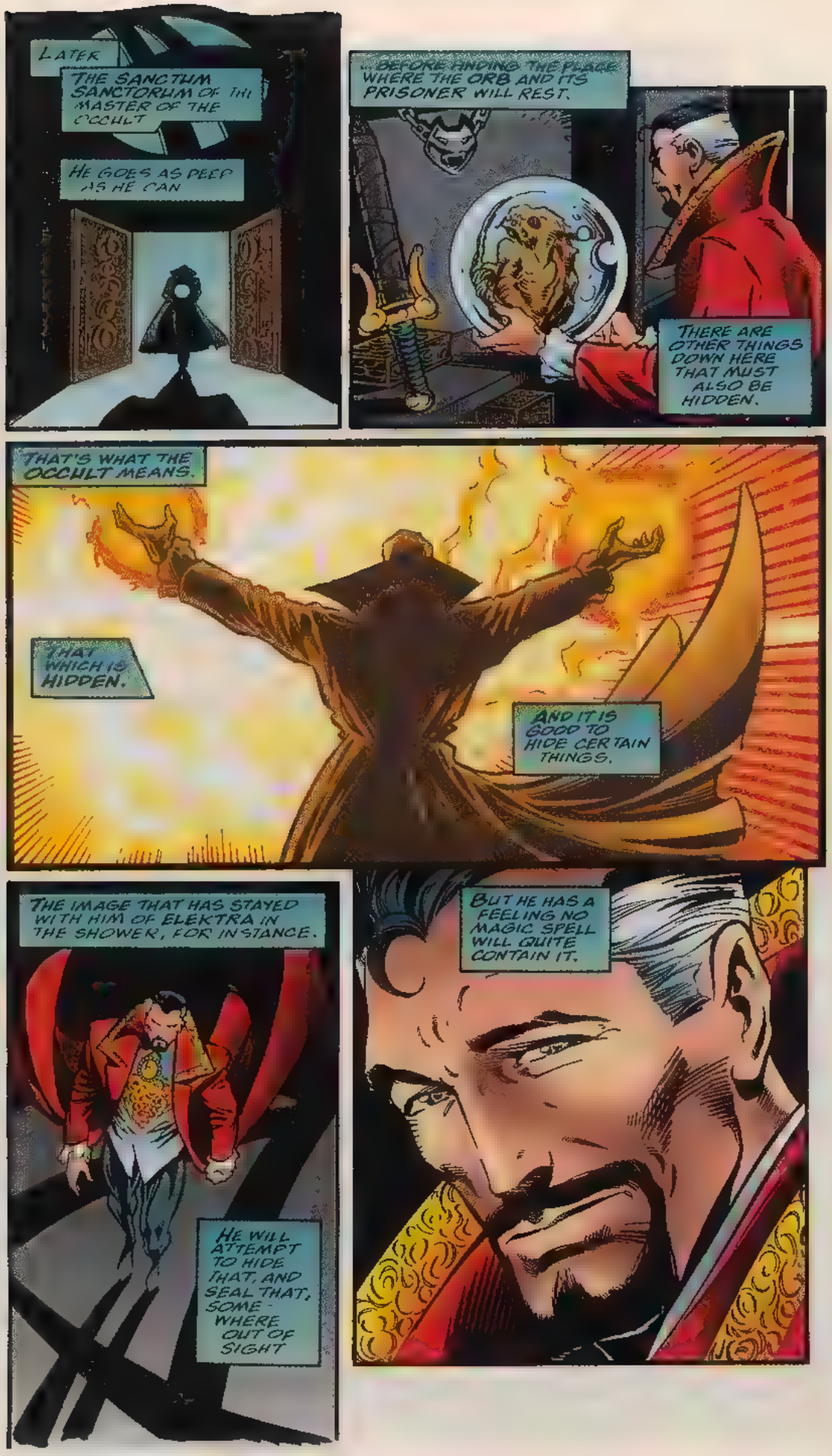
THE FRONT THREE ROWS ARE SPLATTERED WITH GORE.
THE CHEAPER SEATS ESCAPE WITH A SIGHT THEY'LL NEVER FORGET
GET AWAY FROM HER, KONRAD!
I KNOW WHAT SHE IS!
AND I KNOW WHAT SHE WANTS!
THIS BODY DYING ALL WRONG..
I THINK
AHHHH!!
I'LL START AGAIN!
Wha-...
Wha-?
MAYBE THIS IS WHAT HELL SMELLS LIKE, SHE THINKS
BURNING FLESH
CHARCOALED BONES.
THUD THUMP
EXCEPT HELL IS NEVER GOING TO BE THIS MUCH FUN.
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT, MR ARCHITECT?!

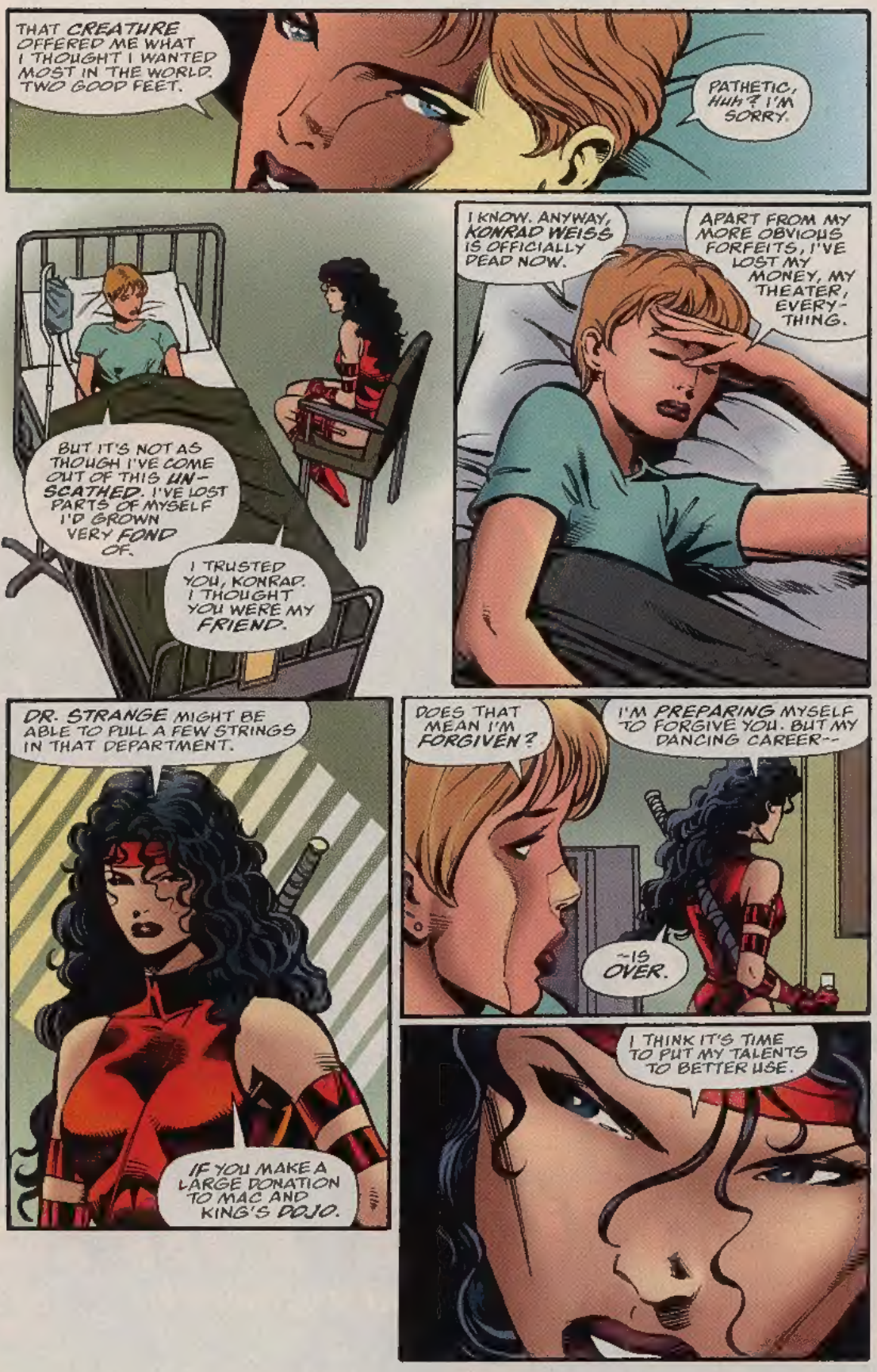

ELEKTRA!
STOP!
IT'S ME!
KONRAD!
KONRAD?
LINEARTHLY POWERS ERUPT FROM THE BODY THAT ONCE HOUSED KONRAD WEISS.
FIZZT
HERE I AM, ELEKTRA.
NOW LET'S SEE IF YOU ARE A WORTHY ASSASSIN.
THEN WHERE'S--?
NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL A GREEK TRAGEDY!
IT TAKES HER THREE SECONDS TO LAND
...AND SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THAT TO TAKE IN THE SCENE OF CARNAGE
MEANWHILE
PRAY THAT I AM NOT ...TOO LATE!

NATURAL BARRIER
HE PROBABLY DELUDED HIMSELF, HE THINKS
SHE WILL BE UNABLE TO GET TO HIM
YET SHE KEEPS COMING
SHE DRAWS ON ALL THE DARKNESS IN HER SOUL
ALL THE TERRIBLE MYTHS OF OLD GREECE THAT CRASH THROUGH RUINS
AND FOR A MOMENT SHE BECOMES AS OLD AS HE IS AND AS DARK AND CRUEL AS BRUTUS.
AND EVEN THIS ANCIENT BEING LOOKS INTO THE AWFUL ORBS OF HER EYES
AND SHARE...

THE SWORD MOVES IN A BLUR
THE AIR HISSES AROUND IT, AS THOUGH IN FRIGHT
YOU'VE MISSED!
I'M DISA--
THUD
Oh.
ELEK--
EXIT
AND AS THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE TRIES TO GET OUT...
...ONE MAN TRIES TO GET IN.
A SPRING BREEZE THROUGH LOTUS BLOSSOMS
THE SIGH THAT EMANATES FROM THE DYING CREATURE IS BEAUTIFUL
ONE MAN, CHANTING A COMPLEX AND ODDLY FRICATIVE SUCCESSION OF PROTO-CANAANITIC CONSONANTS

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS A SPELL...
CONCERNING A CREATURE CREATED FROM CERTAIN SAMPLES...
..AND A LITTLE STRANGE MAGIC.
LEAVES THE PARTITIONED BODY OF KONRAD...
..BUT INSTEAD OF MIGRATING TO A NEWBORN BABY...
...IT IS DRAWN INTO THE BODY OF THIS TINY MONSTER..
..AND SEALED.
GOTCHA!
WHILE IN THE MATERNITY WARD..
IT'S JUST EMPTY.. LIKE A SHELL.


LATER
THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF THE MASTER OF THE OCCULT
HE GOES AS DEEP AS HE CAN
BEFORE ENDING THE PLACE WHERE THE ORB AND ITS PRISONER WILL REST.
THERE ARE OTHER THINGS DOWN HERE THAT MUST ALSO BE HIDDEN.
THAT'S WHAT THE OCCULT MEANS.
THAT WHICH IS HIDDEN.
AND IT IS GOOD TO HIDE CERTAIN THINGS.
THE IMAGE THAT HAS STAYED WITH HIM OF ELEKTRA IN THE SHOWER, FOR INSTANCE.
HE WILL ATTEMPT TO HIDE THAT, AND SEAL THAT, SOMEWHERE OUT OF SIGHT
BUT HE HAS A FEELING NO MAGIC SPELL WILL QUITE CONTAIN IT.


THAT CREATURE OFFERED ME WHAT I THOUGHT I WANTED MOST IN THE WORLD. TWO GOOD FEET.
PATHETIC, HUH? I'M SORRY.
BUT IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I'VE COME OUT OF THIS UN-SCATHED. I'VE LOST PARTS OF MYSELF I'D GROWN VERY FOND OF.
I TRUSTED YOU, KONRAD. I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND.
I KNOW. ANYWAY, KONRAD WEISS IS OFFICIALLY DEAD NOW.
APART FROM MY MORE OBVIOUS FORFEITS, I'VE LOST MY MONEY, MY THEATER, EVERY-THING.
DR. STRANGE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL A FEW STRINGS IN THAT DEPARTMENT.
IF YOU MAKE A LARGE DONATION TO MAC AND KING'S DOJO.
DOES THAT MEAN I'M FORGIVEN?
I'M PREPARING MYSELF TO FORGIVE YOU. BUT MY DANCING CAREER--
-IS OVER.
I THINK IT'S TIME TO PUT MY TALENTS TO BETTER USE.

DARKNESS FALLS.
ELEKTRA WALKS THROUGH THAT DARKNESS.
IT NEITHER SCARES NOR THRILLS HER.
SO, YOU'RE TAKING UP KILLING AGAIN.
I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
THOUGH YOU MUST ADMIT, THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE THE WORLD WOULDN'T MISS.
DON'T KID YOURSELF. YOU'RE ACHING TO GET OUT THERE AND SLAUGHTER AGAIN.
JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS...
ELEKTRA, ASSASSIN.
YOU KNOW, I WARNED MATT MURDOCK ABOUT YOU. "SHE'S BAD NEWS," I SAID.
"STAY AWAY FROM HER."

MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT TO WARN MATT. BACK THEN.
BUT I'M DIFFERENT NOW, STICK.
DIFFERENT? I SEE THE SAME FRIGHTENED GIRL, HITTING BACK AT THE WORLD.
NO. THE DIFFERENCE IS... I CAN LIVE WITH THE FACT THAT I ENJOY DOING WHAT I DO BEST.
IT'S SOMETHING I NEED TO DO, TO STAY ALIVE. TO STAY SANE.
BUT HOW LONG BEFORE YOU START KILLING FOR THE SAKE OF IT?
IT'S LIKE A DRUG. YOU THINK YOU CAN CONTROL IT. PRETTY SOON, YOU'RE KILLING ANYBODY FOR THE SHEER, SICK--
--THRILL OF IT?
THAT'S MY PARTY TRICK.
Hmph.
YOU'RE LEARNING, ELEKTRA.
THE END.

CLUB
PASS
PAT CHAU · ED
& KOELISH